



Wessex Blues

48th Meeting Minutes

Started 12th January 2017 20:05

Closed 12th January 2017 20:40

Location: Royal British Legion/Ex Servicemen's Club, 66 North Road, Poole, Dorset, BH14 0LY

1. Welcome and Introduction

Dave thanked everyone for attending the January meeting (20 in attendance). Members present were asked if the previous minutes from the last meeting were satisfactory, no objections were made, with Billy and Pete approving the minutes.

Apologies were mentioned as of 12pm including Steve Charlton, Joe Price and Douglas Craig.

Dave merged feedback and attendance from previous games in December and early January. Several members mentioned not to bother going to the West Ham game due to the poor view in the old Olympic stadium from the third tier. Pete mentioned that walking to and around the stadium was time consuming after leaving Stratford train station. No other points were raised on any of the other games.

Possible date changes for April and December meetings were discussed. A disabled group with one of our current members Stephen Charlton who is also associated with this disabled group had asked if we could move our current dates (April 13th and December 14th) to the week before or after, as the disabled group could only do the dates that we had already booked in April and December for their parties. Dave was not too pleased as we had already booked the whole year for 2017 last year. Billy asked if we go back to the Smugglers Inn for those two months....Dave thinks that was possible. Andy would check to see if the Smugglers Inn was available in April on the 13th, otherwise we would rearrange the date in April to be on the 20th and remain at the Ex Serviceman's Club. With reference to the December meeting, Dave would try and rearrange the date for the 7th with Mark. Rich would let Stephen know that we able to accommodate their needs.

Dave asked the group had anyone used the 25% Pizza Express discount in Manchester (based on the email that Rich had sent out on the 10th). No one to date had used the offer but a few members had walked past the venue. Billy asked was it our Seasoncard and/or our Wessex Blues supporter's club card that was needed to be presented. Rich confirmed it was our Wessex Blues card.

2. General Secretary Update (Dr. Richard Wild)

Richard mentioned that no ticket requests had been made for West Ham United (FA Cup (A)), Swansea (H) and Manchester United (A). Ticket requests however had been requested for Bournemouth (A) from Billy, Jamie, Rana, Mustafa, Mete, Gary, Penny, Andy, Bill, Joe, Oli and Rich. With reference to Monaco (H) only Gary had requested a ticket, while Monaco (A), Paul, Paul (Carer), Jamie, Billy, Andy, Penny, Joe and Rich had requested tickets.

With reference to Bournemouth, Claire the previous day had announced on Facebook that we had been given full allocation for Bournemouth. Pete mentioned that he had forgotten to check his emails; Gavin missed the deadline date, while Andy H had not received the email. Privately, Andy P stated that he had sent in a ticket request but Rich confirmed had not received it. Rich confirmed that he would send Kevin an email to see if any spare tickets became available it would be appreciated that Wessex Blues could be considered for any additional tickets. Billy stated that he would do his best again like last season to gain any additional tickets from his sources. Andy M stated that he had a ticket in the Bournemouth end.

With reference to Monaco (A), Richard confirmed to Paul that from the previous season, that carer tickets are now allocated as part of our ticket allocation unlike previous times when it was an add on. Rich confirmed that in the next week or so, he hoped he would get confirmation on our allocation. Richard pre-warned the group that it was unlikely to receive our full allocation due to availability of tickets given to the club. It was expected that Man City was going to receive a ticket allocation of only ~1000. Richard asked based on this situation, would anybody like to drop out? as everybody who had applied for a Monaco away ticket (with using their joker/exemption rule etc.) were on the same 5/5 attendance from the last meetings.

Rich confirmed that everybody's name would go into the hat for the Monaco away game. Andy H asked how Joe could be on 5/5 as he was not here last week. Rich and Claire confirmed that Joe had used his joker card. Andy had not heard that Joe had used his joker card. Rich confirmed that Joe had sent his request to use his joker card via email directly to himself after the meeting. Annie stated that Joe was not here tonight. Richard confirmed that tonight he would be unable to use his joker again and this meeting would be counted as a meeting missed. Rich confirmed that the 5/5 meeting rule is based on when the tickets are requested not allocated to branch members. Andy M asked when people use their joker cards are they noted in the minutes. Rich confirmed that some are if they are confirmed prior to the next meeting/meeting date. If not, regardless of this, Richard confirmed that he had an audit of everybody's use of joker/exemption rules in a database of all meetings since September 2012. Andy further asked who so far had used their joker card. Rich stated that he was testing his memory on this; however Billy confirmed that Jamie had used his. Rich went on to say that Gary, Oli, himself, Claire and possibly Andy P had used their joker card this season. Dave confirmed that he would be using his joker card for missing the February meeting due to being on holiday. Andy commented that people wanting to use their joker card should state this before a meeting. Several members stated at times this may not be practically possible. Claire mentioned that it did not really matter as you could only use their joker card once per season. Annie put up a proposal that if you are going to use your joker card that you need to inform Rich

before the next meeting for it to be valid. This proposal was passed with only Andy H abstaining and Andy M against.

It was agreed that just in case the ticket allocation fell short for Monaco (A) that the eight named people would be drawn out of the hat this evening in order of allocation of any tickets. As Rich was a part of the eight and to prevent biased, Dave pulled the names out of the hat under the supervision of Pete. The eight names drawn from the raffle tin (in order) were Penny, Rich, Paul, Jamie, Andy M, Billy, Paul (Carer) and Joe. Andy M confirmed that Monaco's home attendance is only ~18000 to 20000. Pete asked had Monaco got a membership scheme like Barcelona to request tickets. Billy confirmed that they only gave 900 tickets to Tottenham. Paul confirmed that he would still go if his carer could not go based on a shortfall of tickets.

With respect to Doug being given life membership, Rich confirmed that the committee had made a 'bit of a boob' with respect to this. Rich showed the branch that we have a rule book from MCFC stating what each branch can do or can't do. Rich confirmed that we gave life membership to Doug back in August 2014. Rich went on to confirm that every three months, he has to send back our current membership numbers to the club. So before the end of December, this list was sent to Howard at the club. In early January, Rich received an email back from Howard quoting thanks for the updated list; however based on the rule 3.b. states that Life Membership may be granted to Members of 15 years standing, who have also served as a Branch official or on the Executive for 10 of those years. Given that Wessex were formed in 2012 Douglas would not fall into Life Member category, could you please advise? Rich confirmed to Howard, that Douglas was given life membership on the basis that he was the founder member of the original Wessex branch of the 1970s/1980s before dissolving in the early 1990s. Rich continued to say that based on the combination of the old and reformed group timeframe, that rule 3.b. would still apply. Howard confirmed that this was acceptable explanation and Douglas's Life Membership would continue.

Rich confirmed that our current membership was 29 branch members.

Rich quoted that no one from the Wessex Blues had won any prize in the Christmas Club Draw. Rich confirmed that the winner of the £1000 was J. Ferguson from the Bury branch. Rich went on to say that virtually all the prize winners were from the North of England.

No birthday wishes were mentioned as no body had a birthday in the next four weeks.

3. Treasurer Update (Claire Wild)

Claire mentioned that the current balance was £679.71. The only items that were outstanding was payment for tickets from Jamie and Billy for the away game at West Ham United tickets (£30 each), the home game against Tottenham for Penny and Andy (£53 each) and finally Gary (Tottenham home at £53 and Monaco home £35). Rich confirmed to Gary that his Monaco home ticket will not be a paper ticket and would be uploaded to his Cityzens card.

4. AOB

Andy M asked how well had the branch done with respect to the auction and raffle. Rich and Claire confirmed that the club raised £164. Billy mentioned that with respect to the Man United home game, it was likely that the date will change due to Man United playing in the League Cup Final.

5. Next Meeting:

Next meeting to be held on the 9th February 2017 at 19:45 at the Ex Serviceman's Club.

Minutes taken by Dr. Richard J. Wild – General Secretary